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Groups of countries in special situations: comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

Proposed organizational aspects of the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries)

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The present note is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/225, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, no later than 15 January 2014, a note on the organizational aspects of the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 66/214, decided to hold a comprehensive 10-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries[1] in 2014. In its resolution 67/222, the Assembly decided that the conference would be convened for a duration of three days and specified the mandate of the conference. Moreover, it decided that the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee would be held in New York in January and April 2014, each for a duration of two working days.

2. In paragraph 29 of its resolution 68/225, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organizational aspects of the conference, including the venue and the specific dates for the conference and the two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, to be held for a duration of three days in 2014, in the most cost-effective manner and within the budget allocated, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/222, to be submitted to the Assembly not later than 15 January 2014 for its further consideration.

3. The organizational arrangements proposed below have been formulated on the basis of consultations with the potential host country and relevant departments of the Secretariat.

II. Organizational aspects

A. Dates and venue of the conference

4. On 9 January 2014, the Secretary-General received an offer from the Government of Austria to host the second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries in Vienna. It is proposed that the conference be held from 3 to 5 November 2014. Pursuant to the provisions of resolution 40/243, subject to the approval of the offer by the General Assembly, the potential host country would defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved. To this end, the Secretary-General is consulting with the Government of Austria as to the nature and possible extent of such costs.

B. Dates and venue of the intergovernmental preparatory committee sessions

5. Pursuant to paragraph 28 of resolution 68/225, wherein the General Assembly decided to reschedule the first and second sessions of the preparatory committee to later dates, it is proposed that the open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the conference hold two sessions, on 12 and 13 June and 11 and 12 September 2014, both at United Nations Headquarters in New York. In order to

[1] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

conduct the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and informal consultations, as appropriate, a bureau should be established with equitable geographical representation.

C. Organization of work

6. *Intergovernmental track*. In line with the modalities envisaged at the time of the adoption of resolution 67/222, the intergovernmental process of the conference will consist of the committee of the whole and plenary meetings. The inaugural high-level plenary meeting will be held in the morning of the first day. The closing plenary meeting will take place in the afternoon of the final day of the conference.

7. *Private sector track*. A high-level private sector forum will be organized either during or immediately before the conference. The outcome of the forum will be reported to the conference, as appropriate.

8. *Interactive thematic round tables and side events*. Interactive thematic round tables will be organized to facilitate exchange of views and build common understanding on the special needs of landlocked developing countries and their development priorities. A limited number of side events will be held to serve as platforms for the announcement of specific deliverables and initiatives. The themes of these events will be determined through inter-agency consultations and consultations with relevant Member States and international organizations. The resource requirements of these activities will be met from voluntary contributions.

III. Participants

9. The conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations as well as intergovernmental organizations, United Nations system organizations and international and regional financial and development organizations, in line with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

10. Effective participation of civil society and the private sector in the conference and its preparatory committee sessions should be ensured. The arrangements at the 2003 Almaty conference could be used as a precedent.

11. The side events and interactive thematic discussions should be open to all, including all States Members of the United Nations as well as intergovernmental organizations, United Nations system organizations, international and regional financial and development organizations, civil society and the private sector.